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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,733	02/28/2005	Yoshitaka Nakajima	07241.0038	2552

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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER  
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901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER
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LAO, LUN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/11/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/525,733

Applicant(s)

NAKAJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Lun-See Lao

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02-28-2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Introduction***

1. This action is in response to the preliminary amendment filed on 09-11-2006.

Claims 1-16 are pending.

### ***Specification***

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract can not contains more than 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holzrichter (US PAT. 5,729,694) in view of Iwata (US PAT. 4,654,883).

Consider claim 1, Holzrichter teaches a microphone (see figs 3A, 3B (31-33 EM sensor) sampling one of a non-audible murmur articulated by a variation in resonance filter (reads on 49, 56 processing unit and Fourier transforms) characteristics associated with motion of the phonatory organ (see figs 5-7 and col. 14 line 45-col. 16 line 3), the non-audible murmur not involving regular vibration of the vocal cords, the non-audible murmur being a vibration sound generated when an externally non-audible respiratory sound is transmitted through internal soft tissues (see fig.7), a whisper which is audible

Art Unit: 2615

but is uttered without regularly vibrating the vocal cords, a sound uttered by regularly vibrating the vocal cords and including a low voice or a murmur (see figs 9a-10b), and various sounds such as a teeth gnashing sound and a tongue clucking sound (see col. 6 line 45-col. 7 line 64 and col. 32 line 1-col. 33 line 20), but Holzrichter fail to teach that the microphone being installed on a surface of the skin on the sternocleidomastoid muscle immediately below the mastoid of the skull, that is, in the lower part of the skin behind the auricle.

However, Iwata teaches that the microphone (see fig.2, 17) being installed on a surface of the skin on the sternocleidomastoid muscle immediately below the mastoid of the skull, that is, in the lower part of the skin behind the auricle (see col. 3 line 30-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Iwata into Holzrichter to provide more accurate speech recognition.

Consider claims 2-3 Iwata teaches that the microphone comprises a diaphragm (see fig.3, (22)) installed on the surface of the skin and a sucker that sticks to the diaphragm (see col. 3 line 30-56) and the microphone (see fig.1, (17)) is integrated with a head-installed object such as glasses, a headphone, a supra-aural earphone, a cap, or a helmet which is installed on the human head (see fig.2 and see col. 3 line 30-56).

Consider claims 4-8 Holzrichter teaches that a communication interface system comprises the microphone (see fig.20 (91-93)) and a signal processing apparatus (90) that processes a signal sampled through the microphone, wherein a result of processing by the signal processing apparatus is used for communications (see col. 56 line 35-55);

Art Unit: 2615

and the communication interface system wherein the signal processing apparatus includes an analog digital converting section (see fig.5, 49 and col. 14 line 46-col. 15 line 67) that quantizes a signal sampled through the microphone (see fig. 20, (91-93, EM sensor)), a processor section (90) that processes a result of the quantization by the analog digital converting section(see fig.5, 49 and col. 14 line 46-col. 15 line 67) , and a transmission section that transmits a result of the processing by the processor section to an external apparatus (96 and see col. 56 line 35-55); and the signal processing apparatus includes an analog digital converting section (see fig.5, 49 and col. 14 line 46-col. 15 line 67) that quantizes a signal sampled through the microphone and a transmission section that transmits a result of the quantization by the analog digital converting section to an external apparatus (see fig. 20, (96) and see col. 56 line 35-55) and in that the external apparatus processes (such as cellular) the result of the quantization (see col. 16 lines 51-67); and the signal processing apparatus includes an analog digital converting section (see fig.5, 49 and col. 14 line 46-col. 15 line 67) That quantizes a signal sampled through the microphone (EM sensor), a processor section that processes a result of the quantization by the analog digital converting section, and a speech recognition section that executes a speech recognition process on a result of the processing by the processor section (see fig.8 and see col. 16 line 51-col. 17 line 18); and a transmission section that transmits a result of the speech recognition by the speech recognition section to an external apparatus(see fig.8 and see col. 16 line 51-col. 17 line 18).

Art Unit: 2615

Consider claims 9-12 Holzrichter teaches the communication interface system wherein an apparatus (see figs. 8 and 20) in a mobile telephone network executes a speech recognition process on the result of the processing by the processor section, the result being transmitted by the transmitting section(see col. 16 line 51-col. 17 line 18 and see col. 56 line 35-55); and the signal processing executed by the signal processing apparatus is a modulating process in which the process section modulates the signal into an audible sound (see figs 4-7 and see col. 15 line 29-col. 16 line 50); and the modulating process applies a fundamental frequency of the vocal cords to the non-audible murmur to convert the non-audible murmur into an audible sound involving the regular vibration of the vocal cords(see figs 4-7 and see col. 15 line 29-col. 16 line 50); and the modulating process converts a spectrum of the non-audible murmur not involving the regular vibration of the vocal cords into a spectrum of an audible sound uttered using the regular vibration of the vocal cords(see figs 4-7 and see col. 15 line 29-col. 16 line 50).

Consider claims 13-16 Holzrichter teaches that the communication interface system wherein the modulating process uses the spectrum of the non-audible murmur (see figs 14A-15B) speech recognition apparatus to recognize phonetic units such as syllables, semi- syllables, phonemes, two-juncture phonemes, and three-juncture phonemes and uses a speech synthesis technique to convert the phonetic units recognized into an audible sound uttered using the regular vibration of the vocal cords (see figs. 4-7 and see col. 20 line 16-67); and input gain (see fig.5, (47)) is controlled (45) in accordance with a magnitude of a dynamic range of a sound sampled through the

Art Unit: 2615

microphone (EM sensor and see col. 15 line 29-67); and the speech recognition section appropriately executes speech recognition utilizing an acoustic model of at least one of the non-audible murmur, a whisper which is audible but is uttered without regularly vibrating the vocal cords, a sound uttered by regularly vibrating the vocal cords and including a low voice or a murmur (see figs 9a-10b), and various sounds such as a teeth gnashing sound and a tongue clucking sound (see col. 6 line 45-col. 7 line 64 and col. 9 line 16-col. 10 line 68) and signal processing apparatus (see figs. 2-8 and 20) that processes a signal sampled through the microphone according to claim 1 (see above claim 1 rejection).

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Liao (US PAT. 6,898,448) is cited to show other related microphone and communication interface system.

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop \_\_\_\_ (explanation, e.g., Amendment or After-final, etc.)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Facsimile responses should be faxed to:  
**(571) 273-8300**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

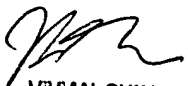
Art Unit: 2615

should be directed to Lao,Lun-See whose telephone number is (571) 272-7501. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chin Vivian, can be reached on (571) 272-7848.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Lao,Lun-See *L.S.*  
Patent Examiner  
US Patent and Trademark Office  
Knox  
571-272-7501  
Date 12-28-2006

  
VIVIAN CHIN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600